

Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 30th, 2014
6:45-8:15

Start: 6:45

New Representatives to the Citizen Corps Council

Neighborhood Watch: Jim Krause. Alan Hansen has received a different assignment.

American Red Cross: Mike Gantigalo. Mike will be responsible for Fairfax, Alexandria, and Arlington. David Chesler will be taking other jurisdictions in Northern VA, and most likely won't be at any other Fairfax CCC meetings.

Fairfax County OEM: Whitney Kazragiz, Community Outreach Liaison.

Whitney.kazragiz@fairfaxcounty.gov

Fairfax County OEM: Dean Sherick (new marcelo). Office # 571 350 1015.

Dean.sherick@fairfaxcounty.gov

6:50: Committee Updates

Outreach: No Outreach chair right now since Matt Lyttle left, but Tracy Friend from Volunteer Fairfax may fill the position.

Grants: Al Bass

A preliminary proposal, submitted by OEM, for FY14 funding is due tomorrow. The region will submit for 1.5 million, the same amount as last year. The formula for distribution amongst jurisdictions is a base amount + a per capita amount. Loudoun County has opted out of its money for the FY14 year, so there may be more in FY2014 for the rest of us.

FY12 funding must be spent by April 1, 2014. Dave McKernan suggests that subgrantees should start spending ASAP if there is still money left. Be mindful of your spend down plan. We don't want to have to send any money back. If it isn't spent, it will be rescinded and reprogrammed. Al will send out a reminder next week. The exact end date of your project should be in your allocation letter received at the time of the award.

Membership: Jim Kirkpatrick is not here. No membership update right now.

7:00: Member Updates

Jim Sobecke, CERT: Last meeting, it was presented that we hold a "Ready, Set, Know" festival in September of 2014. The idea came from Chatham County, GA outside of Savannah. That jurisdiction has had great success in that event. Several hundred people have attended. It's set up as stations with attendees receiving a passport so they can hit every table. The idea is that every agency involved in Citizen Corps participate and table. It would be great to do it at 4 or 5 locations all at the same time.

Perhaps government centers could host. "What would happen after a disaster when first responders do arrive?" IT would give people a good sense of how to interact with their first responders. This is just a basic framework so far, but if we like it, Jim will start coordinating right away to make sure it is well planned. The key would be to have the same event at each location. People interested in helping plan the event would start to meet in February. The key is to have workshops, demonstrations and experiences, not just flyers and tables. A lot of companies may want to get involved, as well. For instance, in GA a tree trimming company came to the event to show how trees are cleaned up after a big storm. We may be able to coordinate with each supervisor's district and their CACs. This would be a good way to exercise volunteers, too. It should be 99% volunteers helping plan and manage the event.

See Jim's handout for additional details.

There are questions about the number of volunteers needed to do multiple sites. Some feel that the volunteer need for multiple sites would be prohibitive. Others feel you'd have a large reach. It's successful for National Night Out with multiple events.

7:15: We now have a quorum of 13 voting members

"Ready Set Know" adopted by the Citizen Corps Council as an official project via voice vote.

Karrie pointed out that we need to get going, because we only have a few meetings between now and then.

Mark Grapin points out that we, as a council, don't meet often enough to see this event through. We will need to meet more regularly to make it a success.

Jim would like to put together a planning committee at this meeting. We should be able to have an update by the next meeting. Mark Grapin, Wes Calendar, Al Bornman Dana Powers volunteer to help plan.

Jim, CERT: Just completed afternoon and evening CERT classes in Annandale. Barcroft Village, a senior program, wanted a class. 33 people completed the course. We're trying to get another one going in Mount Vernon.

Senior Village is a new idea that helps local communities stay in their homes as they age. It's a newer idea. Search for "Fairfax County Aging in Place" to see organizations in Fairfax County.

Dana Powers, CERT: We're doing more classes per year than we have previously. Now, we're looking at Spring, Fall, and Winter classes. We're working on our GIS system to have CERT volunteers organize by fire stations. We're doing two classes next month on Pet 1st Aid and Safety with Animal Control. We're going another training on working with people who are training impaired. We're also getting ready to gear up for the World Police and Fire Games. Hopefully, we'll get a representative to come to a future meeting. Lastly, the VMS system is a year late and we're not sure if it's ever going to happen. For the MRC, it's keeping track of volunteers and their hours, but it may not work for CERT.

Rod Bubeck, MRC: Since the last meeting we've had 49 volunteers participate in various exercises. It was about 400 volunteers total. We also had an internal drill within the health department, where MRC volunteers manned the call center. We have some orientation classes coming up. We have a few exhibits and boot camp classes happening too.

7:35: Vote on November minutes. Approved unanimously via voice vote.

Wes, Dranesville Dist: Supervisor Faust will be happy to host a site for the Ready, Set, Know.

Al, Mount Vernon Dist: This Saturday is Gerry Hyland's annual meeting. There will be a large tabling event at Mount Vernon HS at 8am.

Karrie, Sully District: Nothing to report, but it would be great to have a location of Ready, Set, Know in the District. I attend a CAC meeting and gave a short presentation on the Citizen Corps Council. There were volunteers from several of our organizations in attendance. We may want to ask for CAC support in getting the word out about the Ready, Set, Know event.

Braddock District: CERT is trying to resurrect the original CERT teams in the Braddock District. It would be good to see those teams functional again.

FCIA: Please take a look at this hand out for the Fairfax County Community Collaboration Summit for Disaster Resiliency. It's going to be March 25th. A Tuesday. This is the follow-up to 2011's Fairfax County Roundup. Please feel free to sign up now.

Neighborhood Watch: No Updates

National Night Out: The 2014 NNO will be the 1st Tuesday in August. That's the 5th. It would precede the date for the Ready, Set, Know event, so it would be good practice.

David Chesler, American Red Cross: On MLK Day we did some canvassing to promote fire safety. It wasn't about getting as many doorhangers up as possible, it was about engaging with citizens. 300 doorhangers were passed out and 50 citizens were engaged. While we were engaging with one family we could hear the smoke alarm beeper going off. We passed their name over to the FD. A woman with 12 birds wanted to know if, in an emergency, Fairfax County would help her with her birds. It was good to speak with people and get them thinking about Fire Safety.

There was the potential for huge displacement in Annandale after a small fire. Fortunately, it wasn't necessary to move all of the people. We were ready to go with a shelter and a staging area. Thankfully, sheltering wasn't needed. Only about 24 families didn't have power that night, and those families hunkered down. We really dodged a bullet by keeping the power on. It was still a good test of our plans, and the teams did well. I've noticed that in the Hybla Valley, Mount Vernon area we've been asked to respond to an increase of apartment and condo fires in the past few months. Just wanted to point that out, although it's only from my own experience.

Mark Grapin, Boy Scouts: I like the idea of this "Read, Set, Know" event. I'll share this information with my group on the 13th and see what we can do to get engaged. There is a lot our scouts can do in the event of a disaster. In addition, this is an opportunity to better brand our organizations and the Citizen Corps Council. Hopefully, I can help with that.

Whitney, OEM: The Summit will provide the opportunity for community organizations to meet key players in their community. It's highly encouraged that you attend. The date, again, is March 25. Wednesday, April 30 is the NCR School Safety event held at GMU-Fairfax and organized by MWCOG.

Dave McKernan, OEM: Weather for Monday: Snow or rain. Tuesday: another event. Next weekend (2/8-2/9) has the potential for very heavy snow. Thanks to the Red Cross for helping us with the shelter at the Audrey Moore Rec Center. It was a great exercise and we're glad it wasn't needed in the end.

CHAOS exercise was a success in that we made a lot of mistakes. Exercises are never perfect and we learned a lot. CHAOS was a dirty bomb that went off at the intersection of 495 and 66. It was all pretend, but the players took it very seriously. I hope some of you had the chance to participate or observe. The door is always open. Dave Rohr would like to come to a CCC meeting. Someone from the McLean Citizens Association would like to attend a future event, as well.

FEMA's Capstone Exercise will take place at the end of March. Visit FEMA's website (<http://www.fema.gov/national-level-exercise>) to learn more.

8:05: Meeting ends

Meeting minutes taken by Matt Lyttle, Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council Secretary